

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-8 (Canceled).

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): A fluorescent thin film comprising a matrix material which comprises a rare earth sulfide or a rare earth selenide, and which further comprises a rare earth element as a light emission center, the rare earth element as the light ~~transmission~~ emission center being different from the rare earth element of the matrix material, and wherein said rare earth sulfide comprises at least one compound selected from the group consisting of lanthanum thioaluminate and neodymium thioaluminate.

Claim 10 (Previously Presented): The fluorescent thin film according to claim 9, wherein said rare earth element added as said light emission center is one element selected from the group consisting of at least Ce, Eu, Tb and Tm.

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): An EL panel comprising a fluorescent thin film as recited in claim 9.

Claim 12 (Withdrawn): A process of forming the fluorescent thin film according to claim 9 by an evaporation technique, wherein:

at least, a rare earth metal evaporation source and a group III sulfide evaporation source with a light emission center added thereto are placed in a vacuum chamber with H₂S gas introduced therein, and

a rare earth metal and a group III sulfide material are evaporated from the respective evaporation sources to deposit a sulfide fluorescent thin film on a substrate while the respective materials are combined with the H₂S gas.

Claim 13 (Canceled).

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): A fluorescent thin film comprising a matrix material which comprises a rare earth sulfide or a rare earth selenide, and which further comprises a rare earth element as a light emission center, the rare earth element as the light ~~transmission~~ emission center being different from the rare earth element of the matrix material, and

wherein said rare earth sulfide comprises at least one compound selected from the group consisting of lanthanum thioaluminate, neodymium thiogallate and yttrium thioindate.

Claim 15 (Previously Presented): The fluorescent thin film according to claim 14, wherein said rare earth element added as said light emission center is one element selected from the group consisting of at least Ce, Eu, Tb and Tm.

Claim 16 (Previously Presented): An EL panel comprising a fluorescent thin film as recited in claim 14.

Claim 17 (Withdrawn): A process of forming the fluorescent thin film according to claim 14 by an evaporation technique, wherein:

at least, a rare earth metal evaporation source and a group III sulfide evaporation source with a light emission center added thereto are placed in a vacuum chamber with H₂S gas introduced therein, and

a rare earth metal and a group III sulfide material are evaporated from the respective evaporation sources to deposit a sulfide fluorescent thin film on a substrate while the respective materials are combined with the H₂S gas.

Claim 18 (Canceled).

Claim 19 (New): A fluorescent thin film for an EL panel comprising a matrix material which is lanthanum thioaluminate or neodymium thioaluminate, and which further comprises a rare earth element as a light emission center, the rare earth element as the light transmission center being different from the rare earth element of the matrix material,

wherein said rare earth element of the matrix material is an element selected from the group consisting of Y, La, Ce, Pr, Nd, Gd, Tb, Ho, and Er.

Claim 20 (New): An EL panel comprising a fluorescent thin film comprising a matrix material which comprises a rare earth sulfide or a rare earth selenide, and which further comprises a rare earth element as a light emission center, the rare earth element as the light transmission center being different from the rare earth element of the matrix material,

wherein said rare earth sulfide comprises at least one compound selected from the group consisting of a rare earth thioaluminate, a rare earth thiogallate and a rare earth thioindate, and wherein said rare earth element of the matrix material is an element selected from the group consisting of Y, La, Ce, Pr, Nd, Gd, Tb, Ho, and Er.

Claim 21 (New): A fluorescent thin film for an EL panel comprising a matrix material which is at least one compound selected from the group consisting of lanthanum thioaluminate, neodymium thiogallate and yttrium thioindate , and which further comprises a rare earth element as a light emission center, the rare earth element as the light transmission center being different from the rare earth element of the matrix material,

wherein said rare earth element of the matrix material is an element selected from the group consisting of Y, La, Ce, Pr, Nd, Gd, Tb, Ho, and Er.